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PROGRAM Friday Morning STATION WDMV TV
CBS Network

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SUBJECT Satisfying His Personal Curiosity at the CIA

BOB SCHIEFFER: The Chairman of the House Assassination Committee, Louis Stokes, says this morning that there are still unanswered questions about the rifling of committee files by a CIA man assigned to guard them. Stokes says that the committee staff isn't happy with the explanation that the man was just curious about the Kennedy assassination files.

Jim McManus reports.

JIM MCMANUS: It was the Central Intelligence Agency that decided its own employee was merely satisfying his personal curiosity when he allegedly tore open committee files containing color autopsy photographs of the dead President. The committee had been fearful that the pictures might be stolen and published for profit. They were kept in a safe that was accidentally left open for a brief period almost a year ago. Committee sources say a Central Intelligence Agency security guard assigned to watch a CIA safe in a nearby room rifled the Kennedy evidence but took nothing. He's been identified as a former Washington, D.C. fireman named Regis Blahut (?), who reportedly denied any wrongdoing, but was discovered through fingerprints taken from the committee safe and its contents.

Blahut was fired after an internal CIA investigation that included lie detector tests which reportedly cleared his superiors at the Central Intelligence Agency of any suspicion they might have been involved.

Committee sources say intelligence director Stansfield Turner was devastated when he learned one of his employees was apparently guilty of unauthorized entry into secret committee